

Good move for child support

The I-15 and I-5 freeways will soon have fewer cars on the road. Don't get too excited. It won't be a significant easing of traffic congestion for North County to San Diego commuters.

Come July 7, North County parents will no longer have to make the long drive to San Diego to deal with legal disputes over child support. That's the day Superior Court's North County branch will begin hearing child support cases in Vista.

It's a good decision.

Credit the positive change to collaboration be-

Our view:

The court makes a good decision for inconvenienced North County parents

tween the county's Superior Court and the Child Support Services Department. The two agencies grasped a full understanding of the challenges facing many parents who for years had to make their way to San Diego for child support hearings. That prompted the presiding judge of the Superior Court to mandate

support division cases be held in Vista when both parties involved reside in North County.

Parents' presence in San Diego will still be required for filing of cases.

For existing cases, if one of the parties makes the request the hearing will be scheduled for Vista.

Until recently, a lack of available courtroom space posed the problem, but trailers that once served as temporary courtrooms became the solution. The trailers have been remodeled and will be used for child support hearings.

Initially, Superior Court Commissioner Adam Wertheimer will preside every Wednesday, with 20 cases on the day's calendar. That number is expected to double. The court estimates about 1,500 existing cases will be moved to Vista.

This answer to an obvious need is long overdue for North County.